

Sandbach  
Urban



District  
Council

# Report

on the

Health and Sanitary Circumstances  
of the District

for the year ended

31st December, 1963

*Medical Officer of Health*

L. RICH, M.B., CH.B., M.R.C.O.G., D.P.H.

9 PARK STREET, CONGLETON. Telephone 3655/6

*Chief Public Health Inspector*

N. A. ROGERS, M.A.P.H.I.



To the Chairman and Members  
of the Sandbach Urban District Council

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Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen,

I have the honour to present to you the Annual Report for the year 1963 on the Health and Sanitary Circumstances of the Urban District of Sandbach.

There has been an increase in population of some 270 despite a fall in the number of births and a rise in the number of deaths.

There was an epidemic of Measles during the year but no cases of Whooping Cough were reported. It is pertinent to note that in the latter disease an effective vaccine is used extensively in our immunisation scheme but that we are still awaiting the production of a safe measles vaccine.

One case of Typhoid was notified in a person returning from holiday in Spain. This raises the problem of the introduction of serious infectious disease into this country from abroad and it is recommended that all persons going on holiday particularly to the Mediterranean area should consider having themselves immunised. This must be done at least 6 weeks prior to departure to be effective.

I must refer to that section of the Chief Public Health Inspector's report dealing with milk. The possibility of Brucellosis occurring in cattle and transmitting serious disease to man cannot at present be satisfactorily prevented with the legislation that now exists. It has been apparent for many years that the only impediment to the removal of Brucellosis from this country has been the lack of the will to do so on the part of the central administration.

The persistence of Brucellosis is one of the saddest tales of inertia of Ministries that there has been. All expert work and advice on Brucellosis has been, for reasons best known to the Ministries themselves, largely ignored. So have been the experiences of other countries on eradication. Scientific papers, advocacy, eradication, have come and gone, deputations have gone to the Ministries and presented their cases, independent workers, medical officers of health, veterinarians, laboratory workers, research workers, M.P.'s, town clerks, associations of local authorities, all write or go to the Ministries about eradication or action against Brucellosis. All have been repulsed. The Establishment has held out against them. The widespread demands for progress against Brucellosis and eradication have so far been defeated. It is to be hoped that the recent ventilation given to this subject in the House of Commons will at long last be effective in achieving the overdue action on this entirely preventable disease.

To conclude this introduction on a satisfactory note it is gratifying to report no cases of Poliomyelitis, so recently such a dreaded disease, and that once again with nearly 180 births there has been no maternal mortality.

I wish to thank our Clerk, Mr. Skeath, and his staff for their assistance and guidance so readily forthcoming at all times, and also Mr. N. A. Rogers, the Chief Public Health Inspector, and Mr. H. J. Rees, the Engineer and Surveyor, for their valuable contributions to this report.

I beg to remain,

Your obedient servant,

**L. RICH**

Medical Officer of Health



The figures in brackets are for the year 1962  
to enable comparisons to be made

## STATISTICS AND SOCIAL CONDITIONS

### Extracts from Vital Statistics

Estimated Population ... .. 10,260 (10,090)

#### Births

##### Live Births—

		<i>Total</i>	<i>Male</i>	<i>Female</i>
Legitimate	... 164	(172)	86 (92)	78 (80)
Illegitimate	... 9	(4)	5 (1)	4 (3)

##### Still Births—

Legitimate	... 5	(6)	4 (3)	1 (3)
Illegitimate	... —	(—)	— (—)	— (—)

Live birth rate per 1000 estimated average  
population mid-1963 ... .. 17.8 (17.4)

Live birth rate for England and Wales per  
1000 of the population ... .. 18.2 (18.0)

Still birth rate per 1000 total (live and still)  
births ... .. 28.0 (32.9)

Still birth rate for England and Wales per  
1000 total (live and still) births ... .. 17.3 (18.1)

Still birth rate per 1000 total population ... .. .48 (.59)

Still birth rate for England and Wales per  
1000 total population ... .. .31 (.33)

#### Infantile Mortality

The total number of deaths is shown as follows :

		<i>Total</i>	<i>Male</i>	<i>Female</i>
Legitimate	... 3	(3)	2 (2)	1 (1)
Illegitimate	... —	(—)	— (—)	— (—)

Infantile mortality rate per 1000 live births ... .. 17.3 (17.0)

Infantile mortality rate for England and Wales ... .. 20.8 (21.4)

Legitimate infants per 1000 legitimate live  
births ... .. 18.2 (17.2)

Illegitimate infants per 1000 illegitimate live  
births ... .. 0 (0)

#### Deaths

Deaths (all ages) ... 116 (105) 70 (57) 46 (48)

Death rate per 1000 estimated average popu-  
lation ... .. 12.3 (11.3)

Death rate for England and Wales per 1000  
of population ... .. 12.2 (11.9)

The following table shows the deaths from all causes within the district during the year.

CAUSE							Total	Male	F'le
1.	Tuberculosis, respiratory	...	...	...	...	...	—	—	—
2.	Tuberculosis, other forms of	...	...	...	...	...	—	—	—
3.	Syphilitic disease	...	...	...	...	...	—	—	—
4.	Diphtheria	...	...	...	...	...	—	—	—
5.	Whooping Cough	...	...	...	...	...	—	—	—
6.	Meningococcal infection	...	...	...	...	...	—	—	—
7.	Acute poliomyelitis	...	...	...	...	...	—	—	—
8.	Measles	...	...	...	...	...	—	—	—
9.	Other infective and parasitic diseases	...	...	...	...	...	—	—	—
10.	Malignant neoplasm, stomach	...	...	...	...	...	7	3	4
11.	Malignant neoplasm, lung, bronchus	...	...	...	...	...	2	2	—
12.	Malignant neoplasm, breast	...	...	...	...	...	—	—	—
13.	Malignant neoplasm, uterus	...	...	...	...	...	—	—	—
14.	Other malignant and lymphatic neoplasms	...	...	...	...	...	10	4	6
15.	Leukaemia, aleukaemia	...	...	...	...	...	1	1	—
16.	Diabetes	...	...	...	...	...	1	1	—
17.	Vascular lesions of nervous system	...	...	...	...	...	19	11	8
18.	Coronary disease, angina	...	...	...	...	...	23	15	8
19.	Hypertension with heart disease	...	...	...	...	...	4	2	2
20.	Other heart disease	...	...	...	...	...	9	5	4
21.	Other circulatory disease	...	...	...	...	...	1	1	—
22.	Influenza	...	...	...	...	...	2	2	—
23.	Pneumonia	...	...	...	...	...	3	3	—
24.	Bronchitis	...	...	...	...	...	1	1	—
25.	Other diseases of respiratory system	...	...	...	...	...	1	1	—
26.	Ulcer of stomach and duodenum	...	...	...	...	...	1	1	—
27.	Gastritis, enteritis and diarrhoea	...	...	...	...	...	—	—	—
28.	Nephritis and nephrosis	...	...	...	...	...	—	—	—
29.	Hyperplasia of prostate	...	...	...	...	...	—	—	—
30.	Pregnancy, childbirth, abortion	...	...	...	...	...	—	—	—
31.	Congenital malformations	...	...	...	...	...	—	—	—
32.	Other defined and ill-defined diseases	...	...	...	...	...	25	13	12
33.	Motor vehicle accidents	...	...	...	...	...	3	3	—
34.	All other accidents	...	...	...	...	...	2	1	1
35.	Suicide	...	...	...	...	...	1	—	1
36.	Homicide and operations of war	...	...	...	...	...	—	—	—
TOTAL							116	70	46

Deaths from Puerperal and Maternal causes :

Puerperal Sepsis	...	...	...	...	...	...	0	(0)
Other Maternal causes	...	...	...	...	...	...	0	(0)
Maternity mortality rate per 1000 live and still births							0	(0)

# GENERAL PROVISIONS OF HEALTH FOR THE AREA

## Care of Mothers and Young Children

### Health Visitor

Mrs. E. O. Rae  
Ashfields Clinic, Platt Avenue, Sandbach  
Telephone : Sandbach 970

Mrs. G. Street  
Ashfields Clinic, Platt Avenue, Sandbach  
Telephone : Sandbach 970

There was an increase in the number of cases and attendances under one year at the Infant Welfare Clinic. As forecast in the report of last year, a Sound Projector has been obtained which has added considerably to the scope of the Health Education Programmes. In addition special eye and ear, nose and throat clinics are held for infants and school children and preparation classes and ante-natal clinics for expectant mothers. We also hold sessions for children suffering from speech defects.

A well organised scheme of hearing tests whereby each mother is offered the opportunity of having the infants hearing tested between 7 - 9 months. The importance of doing this is that if any defect is present it will seriously interfere with the child's ability to learn to speak. We have a special Audiology clinic operating at Crewe who deal with these babies under the direction of specialists from the Department of Audiology of Manchester University. A child who is born deaf must be specially taught and fitted with an appropriate hearing aid as early as possible.

Also a Child Guidance Service has been established at the Ashfields Clinic where a Child Psychiatrist, a Psychologist and Psychiatrist Social Worker work in close co-operation in a special unit designed for the purpose. Much important work is done here dealing with serious behaviour and emotional problems.

### Statistics

	New cases			Total Attendances			No. of Clinics held	Cases seen by Doctor	Average per Clinic seen by Doctor
	0-1	1-2	2-5	0-1	1-2	2-5			
Sandbach	183	—	—	2596	558	532	104	614	11.8
Welfare Centre	(166)	(—)	(—)	(2450)	(779)	(657)	(102)	(847)	(16.6)



### Special Clinics for under 5

	New Cases	Total Attendances	No. of Clinics held	Average per clinic
Ophthalmic Clinic ... ..	21 (21)	150 (128)	36 (34)	4.1 (3.7)
E.N.T. Clinic ... ..	16 (16)	19 (19)	11 (12)	1.7 (1.5)

### Special Clinics for School Children

	New Cases	Total Attendances	No. of Clinics held	Average per clinic
Ophthalmic Clinic ... ..	74 (92)	775 (910)	36 (34)	21.5 (26.7)
E.N.T. Clinic ... ..	72 (47)	149 (110)	11 (12)	13.5 (9.1)

### Preparation Class

	New Cases	Total Attendances	No. of Clinics held	Average per clinic
Preparation Class ... ..	87 (76)	710 (539)	50 (50)	14.2 (10.7)

### Welfare Foods Sold — 1963

Distribution Centre	National Full Cream	Dried Milk Half Cream	A. & D. Tablets	Cod Liver Oil	Orange Juice
Welfare Centre, Sandbach ...	437 (305)	— (—)	— (—)	122 (55)	1091 (714)
Council Offices, Sandbach ...	1117 (1138)	39 (13)	295 (386)	54 (80)	648 (827)

### Midwifery and Home Nursing

Midwifery and home nursing in the town is carried out by the following nurses :

Beatty, M. (full time)	5 Coronation Crescent, Sandbach	Sandbach 731
Hoyle, I. (Mrs.) (in conjunction with Home Nursing Duties)	9 Offley Avenue, Sandbach	Sandbach 852
Curzon, A. P. (in conjunction with Home Nursing Duties)	647 Crewe Road, Wheelock	Sandbach 281
Wainwright, M. (Mrs.) (in conjunction with Home Nursing Duties)	87 Platt Avenue, Sandbach	Sandbach 256

It is satisfactory to record that the work of our Home Nurses and Midwives has gone on at the same high standard and without a single complaint.



Once again numerous items of equipment have been loaned out in order to assist with the nursing of cases in their own homes.

These items consist of the following :

Wheel Chairs	Commodes	Rubber Sheets
Air Rings	Urine Bottles	Air Beds
Bed Pans	Lift	Back Rests
Crutches	Bed Cages	Special Bed
Page Turner	Walking Aid	Enuresis Blankets

We are constantly enlarging and improving our equipment and we are open to receive suggestions in all cases where special items of equipment are needed.

**Births**

Hospital		Home		Private Nursing Home	
Live	Still	Live	Still	Live	Still
149	1	62	3	—	—
(133)	(3)	(43)	(1)	(—)	(—)

I cannot conclude this section without a tribute to the help of the Voluntary Workers who give such valuable assistance at the Infant Welfare Clinic. In particular it must be placed on record that Mrs. Collins, one of the founders, retired as Secretary after 41 years service. Her work was so much appreciated that the Urban Council saw fit to present her with a special illuminated address as a token of their appreciation and to mark such a unique record. The mothers and staff who attend the Clinic also made a suitable presentation of gift and flowers.

**Meals on Wheels**

Twenty - four meals are served twice weekly regularly throughout the year. At Christmas each person receives a special present. We are grateful indeed to the ladies of the W.V.S. who so generously give of their time and effort in this worthy cause. They also perform numerous other services to help the elderly people to cope with their difficulties. The meals are provided by Fodens Ltd., as has been the case since the inception of the scheme and to them we are very grateful.

## Club for Physically Handicapped Persons

A new development has been the establishment of a club for physically handicapped persons. This has been a joint effort between the Divisional Health Committee and the W.V.S. Special transport, when necessary, is provided to bring the people together and the two main functions are Social and Handicrafts. The club meets for their social activities as a temporary measure at the Ashfields Clinic and for handicrafts meet at the Leonard Cheshire Home. A trained Handicraft Instructress is provided by the Divisional Health Committee and a great deal of useful work is beginning to be done. In addition a certain amount of remunerative work is being found for those physically handicapped persons able to do it.

Eventually it is hoped to use the proposed new Civil Defence building which will be suitably modified for this club.

## Vaccination and Immunisation

### Statistics

#### Diphtheria Immunisation

Pre-school children	...	...	...	—	(—)
School children	...	...	...	—	(—)
				<hr/>	<hr/>
				—	(—)
				<hr/>	<hr/>
Reinforcing injections	...	...		—	(—)

#### Tetanus Immunisation

Pre-school children	...	...	...	1
School children	...	...	...	2
				<hr/>
				3
				<hr/>
Reinforcing injections	...	...		13

#### Whooping Cough

Pre-school children	...	...	...	—	(—)
School children	...	...	...	—	(—)
				<hr/>	<hr/>
				—	(—)
				<hr/>	<hr/>
Reinforcing injections	...	...		—	(—)

Combined Immunisation (Diphtheria, Whooping Cough and Tetanus)

Pre-school children ... ..	186	(116)
School children ... ..	11	(5)
	<hr/>	<hr/>
	197	(121)
	<hr/>	<hr/>
Reinforcing injections ... ..	41	(18)

Combined Immunisation (Diphtheria, Whooping Cough)

Pre-school children ... ..	—	(—)
School children ... ..	—	(1)
	<hr/>	<hr/>
	—	(1)
	<hr/>	<hr/>
Reinforcing injections ... ..	—	(2)

Combined Immunisation (Diphtheria, Tetanus)

Pre-school children ... ..	2	(—)
School children ... ..	4	(76)
	<hr/>	<hr/>
	6	(76)
	<hr/>	<hr/>
Reinforcing injections ... ..	71	(148)

Primary Vaccination

Pre-school children ... ..	59	(157)
School children ... ..	7	(171)
Adults ... ..	19	(307)
	<hr/>	<hr/>
	85	(635)
	<hr/>	<hr/>
Re-Vaccination ... ..	25	(709)

**Poliomyelitis Vaccination**

It is not possible to separate the figures in respect of each County district and the table below shows the figures for the whole of South-East Cheshire.



	SALK VACCINE				ORAL VACCINE			Reinf.
	1st injec.	2nd injec.	3rd injec.	4th injec.	1st dose	2nd dose	3rd dose	dose aft. salk vaccine
Children born in 1963	1	1			121	121	135	
Children born in 1962	18	15			575	577	920	
Children born in 1961	21	15			163	164	220	
Children and Young Persons born 1943-60	57	43			332	404	882	
Persons born 1933-42	31	22			141	139	244	
Others ... ..	42	26			332	346	527	
<i>Total</i>	170	122	123	5	1664	1751	2928	216

## Public Health Laboratory Service

We have continued to use the new Laboratory at Chester and I should like to pay tribute to the services given and the help and advice we receive from the Pathologist in charge.

## Domestic Help Service

Statistics relating to the Home Help Service provided in Sandbach during 1963 are as follows :

### Home Helps employed during 1963

Full time ... ..	—	(—)
Temporary ... ..	20	(28)
Casual ... ..	7	(4)
	<u>27</u>	<u>(32)</u>

### Home Helps employed at 31st December, 1963

Full time ... ..	—	(—)
Temporary ... ..	16	(19)
Casual ... ..	—	(5)
	<u>16</u>	<u>(24)</u>

### Applications received during 1963

Confinement	...	...	...	...	5	(5)
Sickness	...	...	...	...	1	(13)
Tuberculosis	...	...	...	...	—	(—)
Aged and Infirm	...	...	...	...	7	(6)
					<hr/> 13	<hr/> (24)

### Cases attended during 1963

Confinement	...	...	...	...	1	(5)
Sickness	...	...	...	...	13	(19)
Tuberculosis	...	...	...	...	—	(—)
Aged and Infirm	...	...	...	...	16	(17)
					<hr/> 30	<hr/> (41)

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## SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE AREA

### Water Supply

This district is supplied with River Dee water from the Hurleston Treatment Works which is of moderate hardness.

### Sewerage and Sewage Disposal

1963 saw the completion of the following schemes :

- (a) Abandonment of the Elworth Sewage Disposal Works, construction of a pumping station, pumping main and sewers to convey the sewage to Hind Heath Sewage Disposal Works and the enlargement of the Hind Heath Sewage Disposal Works.
- (b) The enlargement of the sewer between Well Bank and the old Sandbach Sewage Works and ancillary works in connection therewith.

**Housing**

During the year negotiations were carried out with the County Welfare Committee for the erection of a combined scheme for 25 elderly persons' flats, with welfare facilities, and Part III accommodation comprising of a 10-bed home. It is hoped that a contract will be let and construction started early in 1964.

During 1963, 128 dwellings were completed by private enterprise.

**PREVALENCE OF AND CONTROL OVER  
INFECTIOUS DISEASE**

The following table gives the number of cases of Infectious Diseases notified during the year :

**NOTIFIABLE DISEASES**  
(other than Tuberculosis) during the year 1963

DISEASE	AGE DISTRIBUTION													Total cases notified	Cases admitted to hospital
	Under 1	1- 1-	2-	3-	4-	5-	10-	15-	20-	35-	45-	65 & over			
Dysentery ... ..	—	—	—	—	—	1	1	—	—	—	—	—	2	—	
Measles ... ..	8	12	29	25	32	111	10	1	1	—	—	—	229	—	
Scarlet Fever ... ..	—	—	—	1	3	4	—	—	—	—	—	—	8	—	
Typhoid ... ..	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	1	—	

**Tuberculosis**

For comparative purposes, I have recorded the notifications of Tuberculosis during 1963 in conjunction with the notifications of this disease received each year since 1954.



# Notifications — 1954 to 1963

	1954		1955		1956		1957		1958		1959		1960		1961		1962		1963	
	P	NP	P	NP	P	NP	P	NP	P	NP	P	NP	P	NP	P	NP	P	NP	P	NP
MALE																				
Up to 1 year																				
1- 4																				
5-14															1					
15-24	1		1		1															
25-34	1							1		1									1	
35-44							2										1			
45-54	1																			
55-64					1		1													
65 and over																				
FEMALE																				
Up to 1 year																				
1- 4																				
5-14										1										
15-24	1	1					1													
25-34	1				1		1		1						1	1				
35-44							1													
45-54																				
55-64																				
65 and over					1															
TOTALS	5	1	1	—	4	—	5	1	2	—	2	—	—	—	1	2	1	—	1	—

# Deaths — 1954 to 1963

	1954		1955		1956		1957		1958		1959		1960		1961		1962		1963	
	P	NP	P	NP	P	NP	P	NP	P	NP	P	NP	P	NP	P	NP	P	NP	P	NP
MALE																				
Up to 1 year																				
1- 4																				
5-14																				
15-24																				
25-34																				
35-44																				
45-54					1															
55-64	1								1											
65 and over																	1			
FEMALE																				
Up to 1 year																				
1- 4																				
5-14																				
15-24																				
25-34																				
35-44																				
45-54																				
55-64																				
65 and over																				
TOTAL	1	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—

Cases on Register at 31st December, 1963

			Up to									65 &	
			1 yr.	1-4	5-14	15-24	25-34	35-44	45-54	55-64	over	Total	
Male	Pulmonary	... ..	—	—	—	1	5	6	6	1	—	19	
Female	Pulmonary	... ..	—	—	—	1	2	3	1	1	1	9	
Male	Non-Pulmonary	... ..	—	—	—	2	1	—	1	1	—	5	
Female	Non-Pulmonary	... ..	—	—	—	1	2	1	—	1	—	5	



The following sections of this report have been compiled by the Chief Public Health Inspector, Mr. N. A. Rogers.

## Public Health Inspection

Number of Inspections and Visits during 1963 ... ..	3665
Number of Informal Notices served during 1963 ... ..	59
Number of Informal Notices complied with during 1963	61
Number of Informal Notices outstanding at 31/12/63 ...	1
Number of Statutory Notices served during 1963 ... ..	3
Number of Statutory Notices complied with during 1963	3
Number of Statutory Notices outstanding at 31/12/63	—

Comparatively few complaints are received nowadays in respect of disrepair of private houses. This was once the most common type of complaint received in the Health Department, but it has been superseded by a type which springs from a more selfish and intolerant attitude on the part of many members of the public. Apart from the fact that many of the complaints are of a frivolous nature, others could well be avoided with a little tact and goodwill on all sides. Attempts are also frequently made to secure the support of a Council official in personal squabbles which have only the flimsiest connection with Public Health.

## PUBLIC CLEANSING

### Refuse Collection

1963 has been a very difficult year in regard to Refuse Collection, mainly due to labour shortages. During the twelve months in question the following times were lost by the eight workmen in this section :

Annual leave ... ..	82 man/days
Sick leave ... ..	79 man/days
Other leave ... ..	16 man/days

In addition, these men are diverted every Thursday morning to duties connected with the weekly Market, thus taking an aggregate of 147 man/days which would otherwise be available to refuse collection. When, alongside these facts, it is realised that a further 130 houses were erected in the Urban District during the year, it may seem that in the near future there will have to be some expansion of labour and equipment. At this stage it would probably be going too far to acquire an additional vehicle and team, but the Council are

strongly recommended to consider the replacement of the older collection vehicle by a new large-capacity compression type, and the engagement of at least one additional workman.

## **Refuse Disposal**

Tipping throughout the year has taken place at the Malkins Bank Refuse Tip. The filling of this 10½ acre site is nearing completion and the need for some mechanical aid is more obvious than ever. About one-third of the area has been levelled and covered by a hired bulldozer and the effect created should convince the Council of the need to purchase a suitable earth-moving machine so that the principles of "controlled tipping" can be operated from day-to-day. It is likely, too, that with such a machine the life of the site could be prolonged by digging deep channels on the older part of the tip which would provide further tipping capacity and also supply surplus covering material.

A Public Cleansing Inspector from the Ministry of Housing and Local Government visited this Refuse Tip near the end of the year and his report criticised the present conditions and recommended the Council to implement "controlled tipping". This would only be practicable with mechanical aid as suggested above.

## **Supply of Dustbins**

The Council does not operate a Dustbin Scheme under Section 75(3) of the Public Health Act, 1936, but a supply of dustbins is kept for sale on request. 77 properties were supplied in this way.

## **Salvage**

The only commodity now being salvaged is cardboard cartons which are sold to a local engineering firm for packaging materials. 3650 boxes were thus disposed of for the sum of £45/12/6.

## **Conservancy**

Until December 1963 the emptying of pail closets was carried out by direct labour. Although the Council had been doing the work in this manner for a number of years the equipment for the purpose had not been very suitable, yet the small number of premises involved had not warranted the purchase of comparatively expensive equipment. In addition, it was always difficult to find workmen willing to undertake this unpleasant job. By negotiation, arrangements were made with the Congleton Rural District Council to carry out this work with their labour and their specially constructed vehicle at a charge which was considered reasonable, and the scheme was proceeding smoothly at the end of the year. 13 houses are thus served and 3 pails from other types of premises are also emptied.



## **Public Conveniences**

The Public Conveniences in the town centre continue to be sadly misused, although it would appear from reports throughout the country that Sandbach is not unique in this respect. Much of the trouble is obviously caused by teenagers who use anything from a knife to a lipstick to deface doors and walls with stupid, and often vulgar, inscriptions. It is found that incidents of this nature occur more frequently in the ladies' toilets.

## **GENERAL**

### **Rodent Control**

A trained Rodent Operator, working under the supervision of the Public Health Inspectors, spends approximately half his time on these duties.

The following treatments were carried out during the year :

Business Premises	...	...	...	...	72
Agricultural Properties	...	...	...		50
Dwelling Houses	...	...	...	...	28
Local Authority Undertakings	...	...			8
					<hr/> 158 <hr/>

By means of annual contracts the Council deals with 15 commercial and 9 agricultural properties, and this system gives satisfactory results to all concerned.

The sewers throughout the district were tested and treated for rat infestation.

### **Offensive Trades**

There is only one business in the area - bone boiling - which is classed as an Offensive Trade. It became necessary to make representations to the firm concerned twice during the year when offensive smells from the works were pervading the neighbourhood. On both occasions the management co-operated fully and took immediate steps to eliminate the nuisance.

The firm has entered into an annual agreement with the Council for the destruction of rats.



## **Moveable Dwellings**

The only licensed sites operating within the Urban District during 1963 were one individual and one communal site. The former concerned a single caravan which was stationed near to the slaughter-house for the convenient housing of the manager. The communal site, although planned and licensed for 25 vans, contained only 10 vans at the close of the year. This site is restricted by the owner to vans of a high standard, each one containing its own water closet and bath or shower, and the Council's licence conditions incorporate those requirements. It means that there are no communal toilet facilities on the site and this overcomes one of the most common objections to this mode of living.

## **Atmospheric Pollution**

The Council have not yet taken any steps towards the establishment of Smoke Control Areas.

For a number of years reference has been made in this report to smoke nuisance from a local salt works, and it is possible at last to report that the end of the trouble is in sight. Nuisance from the salt-pan furnaces has been essentially eliminated ; but the boiler furnaces, fired by pulverised fuel, have been a source of intermittent trouble to the firm and the neighbourhood. However, by the end of the year most of the technical difficulties had been overcome and work was about to commence on the installation of oil-firing to two spare boilers. This should have the effect of reducing the load on the boilers at present being operated and thus lessen any tendency to smoke emission.

In October, another major industrial concern converted to oil-firing plant with successful results.

An incinerator at another industrial works gave rise to a series of complaints and the firm eventually took steps for the permanent abatement of the nuisance.

## **Noise Abatement**

No action of any consequence has been required under the Noise Abatement Act during 1963.

## HOUSING

### Unfit Houses

#### (a) Individual Houses

Number of Demolition Orders made	...	...	...	...	1
Number of houses demolished in pursuance of Demolition Orders	...	...	...	...	1
Number of houses demolished as a result of informal action	...	...	...	...	—
Number of unfit houses closed under Section 17(1) Housing Act, 1957	...	...	...	...	1
Number of houses closed in pursuance of undertakings given by owners	...	...	...	...	—

#### (b) Clearance Areas

Number of Areas declared during the year	...	...	...	—
Number of Orders made during the year	...	...	...	—
Number of houses demolished	...	...	...	—
Number of families rehoused	...	...	...	2
Number of persons rehoused	...	...	...	4

The Council have been seeking for some time to acquire further land for housing development, but, until there is some success in this direction, action on clearance work cannot go ahead.

The site of the Hawk Street Clearance Area where the houses were demolished 18 months ago is likely to be affected by proposals for redevelopment of the town centre, but in the meantime the area is most unsightly.

### Repairs

Number of unfit houses in which defects were remedied as a result of informal action ... ..	9
Number of unfit houses in which defects were remedied as a result of formal action :	
(a) by owners under Public Health Acts ... ..	3
(b) by Local Authority under Public Health Acts	—
(c) under Housing Acts ... ..	—

**Certificates of Disrepair**

There was no action whatsoever during 1963 concerning Certificates of Disrepair.

**Improvement Grants**

During the year there were applications for Discretionary Grants in respect of 23 houses and Standard Grants were approved in respect of 28 houses. One application for Discretionary Grant was disapproved because of the insufficient anticipated life of the property concerned. Of all the Grants made, 28 were in respect of owner-occupied houses.

**Discretionary Grants - year 1963**

Number of applications received ... ..	23
Number of applications approved ... ..	22
Total amount of Grants involved in above approvals ...	£4273

**Standard Grants - year 1963**

Number of applications received ... ..	28
Number of applications approved ... ..	28
Total amount of maximum Grants involved ... ..	£2720

In addition, with the approval of the Ministry of Housing and Local Government, the Council modernised 6 of their own houses by the installation of internal water closets.

The relatively high number of Discretionary Grants arises mainly from the modernisation of a group of 20 Almshouses. This is an instance where the improvements will be of inestimable value to the elderly occupiers who previously had none of the listed amenities.

Attempts have been made by publicity and personal contact to approach the Improvement Grant Scheme in a more systematic manner by concentrating on suitable areas of property ; but the efforts have met with comparatively little success. It remains to be seen whether the provisions of the impending Housing Act will provide Local Authorities with more power to pursue this line of action.



## Rehousing

The following is a statement of the latest position with regard to the Register of Applications for tenancies of Council houses and flats :

Applicants on Waiting List for less than 1 year ... ..	66
Applicants on Waiting List between 1 and 2 years ...	18
Applicants on Waiting List between 2 and 3 years ...	14
Applicants on Waiting List over 3 years ... ..	2
<hr/>	
Total number of "live" applicants on current register	102
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11 applicants from the Register of Applicants were rehoused during 1963, and one family was rehoused from a condemned house.

In addition, there were 98 applicants on the Bungalow waiting list, one case having been accommodated during the year.

## FOOD

### Slaughtering and Meat Inspection

The one licensed Slaughterhouse in the Urban District has been continued in use throughout the year. In July the lease of the premises was taken over by a fresh concern, much to the relief of the Public Health officials who had spent a disproportionate amount of time in endeavouring to keep the previous lessee in line with the Hygiene Regulations.

Very little of the meat produced at this slaughterhouse went for consumption locally. Most of the beef was exported to the cities, in many instances for manufacturing purposes, and the nature of this meat is reflected in the high condemnation figures.

The Meat Inspection Regulations which came into operation on 1st October 1963 permitted Local Authorities to charge fees for meat inspection and marking. This Council, in common with most other Authorities in the area, decided to levy the maximum permitted charges, and this was not inappropriate in view of the fact that much of the inspection has to be carried out during evenings and weekends.

It will be seen from the statistics that for the second successive year the incidence of bovine tuberculosis was extremely low. In those few instances where disease is detected the Divisional Veterinary Officer is notified of the details so that he can endeavour to trace the source of infection.



## Meat Inspected and Condemned

	Cattle excluding Cows	Cows	Calves	Sheep and Lambs	Pigs	Total
Animals slaughtered and Inspected ... ..	271	1059	132	9169	1563	12194
<i>(There were no horses slaughtered in the Urban District during 1963)</i>						

### CONDEMNATIONS

#### *All diseases except Tuberculosis:*

Whole carcasses condemned ... ..	8	77	14	71	10	180
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned ... ..	38	705	2	534	49	1328
Percentage of the number inspected affected with disease other than Tuberculosis ... ..	17%	74%	12%	7%	4%	12%

#### *Tuberculosis only:*

Whole carcasses condemned ... ..	—	—	—	—	—	—
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned ... ..	—	2	—	—	20	22
Percentage of the number inspected affected with Tuberculosis ... ..	—	0.2%	—	—	1.27%	0.18%

7 cases of localised *Cysticercus Bovis* were detected during the year

### Analysis in lbs. of Condemned Meat

	<i>Beef</i>	<i>Veal</i>	<i>Mutton</i>	<i>Pork</i>
Tuberculosis ... ..	50	—	—	292
Parasites and Cysts ...	8704	—	808	18
Angioma ... ..	832	—	—	—
Dropsy ... ..	22090	—	474	—
Emaciation ... ..	—	115	1857	180
Actinomycosis ... ..	450	—	—	—
Pleurisy and Pneumonia	451	—	—	50
Septicaemia ... ..	3232	247	80	467
Abscesses ... ..	2165	—	65	444
Fever ... ..	—	150	—	60
Immaturity ... ..	—	50	—	—
Leukaemia ... ..	398	—	—	—
Pericarditis ... ..	24	—	25	—
Pyæmia ... ..	482	—	—	—
Tumours ... ..	36	—	—	—
Misc. and Injury ... ..	5926	15	24	637
	<hr/> 44840 <hr/>	<hr/> 577 <hr/>	<hr/> 3333 <hr/>	<hr/> 2148 <hr/>

It is interesting to observe the trend in the comparative amounts of beef condemned in the last four years :

### Average amount condemned per Beast Slaughtered

	<i>All Diseases</i>	<i>Tuberculosis only</i>
1960 ...	22 lb	... 4 lb
1961 ...	18 lb	... 0.5 lb
1962 ...	19 lb	... 0.17 lb
1963 ...	33 lb	... 0.04 lb

## Food Hygiene

Routine inspections of food premises were carried out throughout the year with a view to maintaining a good standard of hygiene. The co-operation of the occupiers was readily secured in most cases and it did not become necessary to take statutory action in any instance.

A new restaurant, constructed on modern hygienic principles, was opened in the town centre in September. This together with the improvement, under new management, of the other principal restaurant provided the town with much-needed facilities.

Further lock-up shops have been constructed by the Council in the Market Hall and all food traders are now well accommodated.

Two instances of the sale of unsound food were brought to official notice : the items concerned were a pre-packed chicken and an apricot tart. After a full investigation of the circumstances in each case it was considered sufficient to issue cautions to the vendors.

The number of Food Premises (in broad categories) in the Urban District is as follows :

Bakehouses	...	...	...	...	...	...	4
Butchers	...	...	...	...	...	...	11
Cafes	...	...	...	...	...	...	5
Clubs	...	...	...	...	...	...	4
Confectioners	...	...	...	...	...	...	17
Dairies	...	...	...	...	...	...	3
Fishmongers	...	...	...	...	...	...	2
Fried Fish	...	...	...	...	...	...	10
Greengrocers	...	...	...	...	...	...	7
Grocers	...	...	...	...	...	...	56
Public Houses, etc.	...	...	...	...	...	...	23
Slaughterhouses	...	...	...	...	...	...	1
School Canteens	...	...	...	...	...	...	6
Works Canteens	...	...	...	...	...	...	10

## Unsound Food

The following unsound foods were condemned upon voluntary surrender :

84 tins Meat	...	...	...	...	661 $\frac{1}{4}$ lb
401 tins Fruit	...	...	...	...	611 lb
72 tins Fish	...	...	...	...	41 $\frac{1}{4}$ lb
351 tins Vegetables	...	...	...	...	319 $\frac{3}{4}$ lb
10 tins Tomato Juice	...	...	...	...	9 $\frac{1}{2}$ lb
1 tin Soup	...	...	...	...	$\frac{3}{4}$ lb
3 tins Creamed Rice	...	...	...	...	3 lb
6 tins Cream	...	...	...	...	2 $\frac{1}{4}$ lb
2 tins Jam	...	...	...	...	4 lb
12 jars Jam	...	...	...	...	15 $\frac{3}{4}$ lb
1 pack Butter	...	...	...	...	1 lb
Raw Meat	...	...	...	...	5 lb
					<hr/> 1674 $\frac{1}{2}$ lb <hr/>

## Milk

Dealers' Licences are issued by the County Council.

The position in December, 1963, with regard to licensing was as follows :

Dealers' Licences to sell T.T. Milk	...	...	13
Dealers' Licences to sell Pasteurised Milk			13
Dealers' Licences to sell Sterilised Milk	...		14

Routine sampling by the County Health Department revealed the presence of *Brucella Abortus* in raw milk supplied from a farm in the Urban District. Although the farmer co-operated and by agreement all the milk from the infected animals was sent for heat treatment, the practical difficulties which arose from this case served to indicate the inadequacy of the law and the national policy in relation to Brucellosis. The Council accordingly referred the matter to the Urban District Councils' Association with a view to representations being made to the appropriate Ministries for the introduction of a slaughtering policy or some other effective means of preventing the transfer of infected animals without identification.



## Ice Cream

55 premises are registered by the Local Authority for the sale of Ice Cream. Only wrapped ice cream was sold from these premises and no ice cream is known to have been manufactured in the district during the year.

## Other Registered Premises

16 premises are registered by the Local Authority under Section 16 of the Food and Drugs Act, 1955, for the preparation of cooked meats, etc. and 10 premises are registered for fish frying.

## Factories

The following table indicates the position for 1963 :

Particulars	No. on Register	No. of		
		Inspections	Written Notices	Occupiers Prosecuted
(1) Factories in which Sections 1, 2, 3, 4 and 6 are to be enforced by Local Authorities...	16	10	—	—
(2) Factories not included in (1) in which Section 7 is enforced by Local Authority ...	65	22	1	—
(3) Other Premises in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority (excluding outworkers premises) ... ..	5	5	—	—
TOTAL ...	86	37	1	—





